

#30 MARCH 1948

PART VI

S O C I A L

SECTION 1

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

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GENERAL

1. Activities of the Department of Public Health and Welfare during March were geared to the overall program of bringing Western knowledge and Western standards of hygiene to a country just taking its first steps in this field. Despite the obstacles imposed by age-old customs, improvements have been made and are being made in almost every field of Public Health and Welfare. Immunization of a large part of the people against diseases from which they once died by thousands has shown remarkable results. The number of deaths in South Korea is declining. Through importation of modern drugs and medicines and through education, Public Health and Welfare is teaching the doctors of South Korea how to save lives. Nursing training is constantly being improved. Checks are made of the main hospitals to see that sanitation standards are met and maintained. New health centers and clinics are being opened in the provinces to reach a larger number of people. Nearly all of the refugees streaming across the 38° parallel are given care, food, clothing and assistance from the Welfare Sections.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

Communicable Diseases

2. Communicable diseases in March continued to be relatively low in incidence. As in January and February, the three diseases appearing in the greatest incidence were typhus, typhoid and diphtheria. Only an occasional case of smallpox was reported.

Cholera Prevention

3. Details of the 1948 Cholera Prevention Program were completed by the end of March. The program placed chief emphasis on immunization and education of the public and physicians. It included the following parts:

a. Immunization, to be carried out in three phases:

Phase I - Immunization of the population of the five large seacoast cities, as well as the people of seven towns containing refugee camps along the 38° parallel. The estimated vaccine requirement for this phase is 3,000,000 cc.

Phase II - An estimated 15,000,000 cc. of vaccine will be used for this phase, which will include immunization of all myun (townships) bordering on the sea and on the 38° parallel.

Phase III - All important inland cities will be included in this phase. Approximately 5,000,000 cc. of vaccine will be needed.

- b. Education of physicians and the public concerning cholera, its prevention treatment and control.
- c. Training of control teams and laboratory technicians.
- d. Distribution and maintenance of a reserve supply of cholera treatment and control materials, to be kept on hand in provincial capitals in case of an outbreak.

4. A demonstration and lecture on cholera diagnostic technique was given at a meeting of provincial public health advisers on 23 March. The lecture was presented at the National Vaccine Laboratory in Seoul by laboratory personnel.

Mukden Repatriates

5. The problem of housing, feeding and giving medical attention to the 2,000 Korean repatriates from Mukden due to arrive in South Korea in April was delegated to the Department of Public Health and Welfare. (For transportation arrangements, see POPULATION AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.) A four-man Korean team from the Bureau of Preventive Medicine will meet the repatriates at Tientsin. The repatriates will be examined, given inoculations for cholera, typhus, typhoid and smallpox, and dusted with DDT as they board an LST for transportation from Tientsin to Inchon. One week later they will receive their second inoculation, at the Kyonggi-do Distribution Camp at Inchon. Laboratory tests for bubonic plague will be given the repatriates at Inchon.

6. The work of feeding and clothing the repatriates at Inchon will be under the supervision of the Kyonggi-do Provincial Welfare Bureau. The Bureau will interview and process the repatriates before their release from the camp.

MEDICAL SERVICES

7. By the end of March, seven courses of study in X-ray and laboratory diagnosis had been completed at the Masan Tuberculosis Sanitarium. Twenty-four doctors and technicians from hospitals throughout South Korean provinces have attended.

8. Arrangements were made through the XXIV Corps Surgeon's Office for admittance of Korean interns into the four Army Hospitals of South Korea for one year's rotating service. This internship will be of great advantage to Korean doctors desiring American training but unable to go to the United States. Only graduates of last year's and this year's classes in accredited medical colleges will be eligible. Examinations for admittance will include tests in ability to speak English.

9. The number of fully accredited doctors registered in South Korea as of 1 December 1947 was 3,002. During March 1948, 25 Korean doctors from China, Manchuria and North Korea were examined and issued licenses to practice. Five dentists also were given licenses to practice.

10. The Department of Public Health and Welfare completed negotiations with two Presbyterian missions on control of the Yosu leprosarium in Cholla-pukto and the Taegu leprosarium in Kyongsang-pukto. The missions will take control, and the Department has agreed to subsidize the institutions up to 30 won per day for each inmate. The Yosu leprosarium contains 1,000 lepers and Taegu 720 lepers.

NURSING AFFAIRS

11. Six student nurses went to Masan, Kyongsang-namdo, on 31 March to begin a month's training in tuberculosis nursing at the Masan Tuberculosis Sanitorium. This was the first on-the-job training opportunity given students in Korean schools of nursing. Two students from each of the following hospitals composed this first group: Red Cross Hospital, Seoul Transportation Hospital and Women's Medical Hospital, all in Seoul.

12. The following inspections were made in March:

a. National Public Health and Welfare Clinic in Seoul, where it was found that sterilization equipment was inadequate;

b. Seoul City Charity Hospital, found to be in a very dirty condition. The 76 in-patients all indicated lack of nursing care;

c. Severance Hospital, visited several times during the month to observe the nursing situation. Twenty-three graduate and 77 student nurses were employed. Some student nurses were assigned to wards, while the majority worked in the clinics.

13. Eleven Public Health Nurses were graduated on 23 March from the one-month refresher course held in Seoul.

14. Capping exercises were held for 39 student nurses at Severance Hospital, Seoul, on 12 March. Newsreel pictures of the ceremony will be shown in South Korean theaters to aid a student recruitment drive for the fall classes.

15. Arrangements were completed to enroll 46 Korean graduate nurses in a three-month training course at three U.S. Army hospitals in South Korea. This in-study training will begin early in April.

VETERINARY AFFAIRS

16. The Eastgate Slaughterhouse in Seoul was officially reopened on 17 March after a two-month shutdown because of poor repair and unsanitary conditions. Extensive repairs and renovations were made with funds provided by the Seoul Butcher's Association. The establishment was found to be in excellent condition by the middle of March, with the meat supply processed according to high standards of hygiene.

17. The series of four one-week refresher courses for licensed veterinarians begun in February was completed in March. A total of 146 veterinarians attended

lasses designed to improve their ability in and knowledge of veterinary science. Sponsored by the Bureau of Veterinary Affairs and the College of Veterinary Medicine, Seoul National University, the courses were composed of lectures, demonstrations, slides and film strips. Included were several important subjects, such as latest developments in the use of drugs for animal treatment, diagnosis of diseases and basic principles of meat inspection.

18. Plans for vaccinating all dogs in Cheju-do were put into effect on 16 March. This rabies control measure was taken to prevent the recurrence of the disease which broke out in Cheju-do a year ago. Ten government veterinarians, assisted by the provincial police, carried out the vaccination program.

PHARMACEUTICAL AFFAIRS

19. Four X-ray machines received from the United States in March were distributed to the Red Cross Hospital, National Health Center, Women's Medical College Hospital and Moon Wha Isolation Hospital, all in Seoul.

NARCOTICS SECTION

20. As of 31 March, registrants authorized to handle narcotic drugs were as follows:

Manufacturer (exempt narcotic drugs only)	7
Repackagers	2
Wholesalers	36
Retailer, pharmacists	175
Practitioners	3,018
Dealers in exempt narcotics	276
Research worker	1

LABORATORIES

21. Production of biologicals at the National Vaccine Laboratory in Seoul continued to meet the prescribed requirements, in spite of the uncertainty of the electric power supply.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Refugee Camps

22. Several carloads of shoes, clothing, milk and food were received from Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia and were distributed to refugee camps along the 38° parallel. The General Relief Bureau received 2,727 cases of canned food from LARA during March. Medical supplies, as recommended by the Bureau of Preventive Medicine, were purchased and sent to the camps to cope with the seasonal increase in migrants from North to South Korea during February and March.

23. An inspection of the Oijongbu National Refugee Camp on 10 March resulted in several recommendations for improvements in tentage, water supply, washing facilities, drainage and camp maintenance. Substantial improvements were completed by the end of the month.

Welfare Institutions

24. A new agricultural training course was instituted in March by the National Children's Home in Seoul. Forty-eight older boys from 11 private social welfare institutions passed examinations and were accepted for training. In addition to formal classroom instruction, the boys will receive training in rice and vegetable culture, orchard development and animal husbandry.

25. A new Children's Home, the Ho Su Cha Yong Won, opened in Seoul during March, will be able to care for 40 children. Another Seoul institution, the Salvation Army Home, was opened during March to care for unmarried mothers and "potentially delinquent" older-girls. This is the first institution of its kind in South Korea.

26. Forty vagrant boys were placed for care and guidance in a recently-opened institution located at Chochiwon, Chungchong-pukto. The three buildings comprising the institution contain adequate space for housing 80 boys. There had been no institution to care for boys begging in the railroad area of Chochiwon up to this time.

27. A visit was made during March to the National Training School for Boys at Mokpo, Cholla-namdo. Improvements were found to have been made in individualized care, with teachers maintaining running records showing current progress in each child's development.

28. Through Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia, a three-month supply of dried whole milk was obtained for all infants from birth to three years of age in all social welfare institutions in South Korea. Instructions were sent to the institutions on proper preparation of this milk.

Home Relief Rates

29. During March, an increase in home relief rates under the public assistance program was effected. To form the base for such a revision, a study was made of increases in the official ration price of rice in relation to minimum standards of care of needy family groups. Since the former rates were based on the assumption that the official price for one small mal of rice was 85 won, and the most recent price was set at 140 won for the same measure, it was necessary to increase proportionately the relief allowances for needy families living in their own homes. In this way the same basic standard of care for relief recipients may be maintained in spite of inflation. Rates paid vary with size of the families and their location; rates for Seoul and provincial capitals are higher than rates paid to families living in rural areas.

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GENERAL

1. Education during the month of March took a definite step toward the realization of its goal, the establishment of a democratic educational system, with the expansion of teachers' workshop programs. These workshops give educators invaluable training, helping to develop democratic educational concepts that stress the importance of the individual and his responsibility as a member of society, rather than the Japanese concept of dogmatic mass instruction that has been for so long a part of Korean educational methods.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

2. The series of workshop programs conducted for teachers in the City of Seoul was extended to the provinces during March. Workshops are staffed by educational leaders from Seoul schools and by American and Korean officials of the National Department of Education. Teachers attending workshops in most cases are representatives of committees from their own schools. Lectures and instructions are kept to a minimum in the workshops' curricula, while administrative and teaching problems common to all educators are freely discussed.

3. A committee composed of members of the Advisory Staff of the Board of Education was organized to map a program for full utilization of facilities available for training technicians for Korean industries. Short and long-term programs will be set up in Korean schools. The committee will investigate the practicability of using Japanese technical instructors in Korean schools, as well as sending Korean technical students to Japan for training.

BUREAU OF COMMON SCHOOLS

4. The Bureau of Common Schools held a workshop in home economics from 15 to 19 March, with 60 teachers attending. The workshop was divided into three sections, each studying a particular subject. The first section studied the home economics curriculum in elementary schools; the second conducted experiments in the repair and maintenance of electric home appliances; and the third studied pattern-making for Western-style clothes, color combinations in clothing and the use of the sewing machine and attachments.

5. The Department of Education's consultant on English for middle schools completed an analysis of the most difficult English-language sounds for Koreans to pronounce and has devised corrective drills to be used in middle school English classes.